

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
March 23, 2009

Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Nesbitt, Paulhus, Schaefer  
Excused: Koehn, Paterson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2009 meeting as presented. Motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Duffy who abstained.

Deputy Mayor Haddad noted a change in the agenda. The scheduled public hearing would be followed by the opportunity for the public to speak. Without objection the Council agreed to the change.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Amendment to Special Police Services Ordinance

The Town Clerk read the legal notice and the Deputy Mayor noted the receipt of a communication in favor of the proposed ordinance from Mark and Jeanne (Ahern) Mogayzel. (Statement attached)

Ronald Kelly, Bundy Lane, spoke in favor of the proposed amendments to the ordinance commenting that the changes could serve as an incentive for the owners of rental houses to act responsibly. He is supportive of the effort to keep things quiet.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, stated that he is not against the intent of the ordinance but feels that the landowner should not be the responsible party.

Kevin Connors, Attorney for Carriage Polo Run, LLC and Aspen Square Management, spoke in opposition to the proposed amendments. (Statement attached) After discussing his concerns regarding the effect of the amendments on his client's properties with members of the Council, Attorney Connors agreed to provide suggested wording for changes to the amendments.

Patrick Keane, Operational Manager of Carriage House, expressed his opposition to the proposed amendments. (Statement attached). Mr. Keane spoke to the efforts of management to work with the Town to ameliorate the current situation and asked the Council to review the Public Safety logs for Carriage House.

Christopher Kueffner, Ravine Road, commented that he has a general aversion to the philosophy of holding one person responsible for another's behavior. He would rather work on changing the behavior of students through education.

John Sobanik, representing Flagship Management and Celeron Square Apartments, submitted a letter from Attorney Scott F Lewis outlining their concerns. (Letter and statement attached) Mr. Sobanik suggested that an exemption to the ordinance be provided for property owners when external events, like Spring Weekend, are planned.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, noted that the ability for landowners to evict tenants is limited.

Brien Buckman, UConn student and member of USG, spoke in favor of the amendments to the ordinance commenting that the changes provide another tool for the police to use. Mr. Buckman noted that the potentially affected landowners did buy properties in a university community.

#### IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, asked the Council for a mechanism to address the questions brought before the Council by citizens and presented his suggestions for the budget. (Statement attached). Mr. Hossack agreed to submit details on his suggested \$500,000 worth of cuts to employee positions.

Deidre Goodrich, Westwood Road, expressed her desire to see Storrs Center become a reality and thanked the Town Manager and members of the Council for their continued support of the project. (Statement attached)

Henry Krisch, Farmstead Road, speaking for himself and his wife June expressed support for the sense of community that they have experienced in Mansfield for many years. They would like to see this continue with the completion of the Storrs Center project. (Statement attached).

M. Dolan Evanovich, Westwood Road, thanked the Town Council for their support of the Storrs Center project in these challenging economic times. Mr. Evanovich declared the Center will serve as an economic engine for the Town and is a smart growth project.

Ms. Blair left the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Lynn Stoddard, Ravine Road, expressed appreciation for the support of the Town Council for the Storrs Center project noting it will offer many benefits to the Town. Ms. Stoddard commented that one of the reasons for the problems the Town is experiencing with students in the neighborhoods is a lack of places to go and things to do.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, stated that he is not against the Storrs Center project but that it should be financed by private money.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, asked the why the tape he made of the Council meeting two weeks ago was never shown. The Town Manager will investigate.

Ms. Duffy moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to move Item 9, Town Manager's

Proposed FY2009/10 Budget, to the next order of business after the discussion of the Special Police Services Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Report attached

Town Manager Matt Hart reported that there have been a few questions posed by members of the public concerning open space purchases, payroll related items and accruals for the Town Attorney. At Deputy Mayor Haddad's request the staff is in the process of preparing a response to those questions.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

2. Amendment to Special Police Services Ordinance

Council members agreed to further discuss the changes to the ordinance at a future meeting. The Town Manager added that staff would address issues raised at the public hearing, as well as the expected additional remarks from Attorney Connors.

3. UConn Landfill Long-term Monitoring Program

Informational material.

4. Community/Campus Relations

The Manager reported that the staff is preparing for Spring Weekend and that the Campus Community Partnership is again sponsoring visits to off campus housing in an effort to educate student residents regarding what is expected of them.

5. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

Director of Planning Gregory Padick summarized the last meeting of the UConn Water and Wastewater Policy Advisory Committee.

6. Parks and Recreation Co-sponsorship Policy Revision

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to adopt the Parks and Recreation Co-Sponsorship Policy dated March 23, 2009.

Director of Parks and Recreation Curt Vincente commented that all the suggestions of Council members had been incorporated into the policy.

Motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Duffy who abstained.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

## 7. Recreational Trails Program Grant

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the following resolution:

Be it resolved that it is in the best interest of the Town of Mansfield to enter into contract(s) with the Department of Environmental Protection.

In furtherance of this resolution alone, Matthew W. Hart, the Town Manager of the Town of Mansfield or acting Town Manager is duly authorized on behalf of the Town of Mansfield to enter into and sign said contract(s) with the Department of Environmental Protection for the purpose of receiving funding from the Recreational Trails Program. The Town Manager is further authorized to provide such additional information and execute such other documents as may be required by the state or federal government in connection with said contract(s) and to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto.

The Town Clerk of Mansfield is authorized to impress the seal of the Town of Mansfield on any such document, amendment, rescission, or revision.

Motion passed unanimously.

## 8. Acceptance of Easement for Highway Purposes – Meadowbrook and Connantville

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective March 24, 2009, to authorize Town Manager Matthew W. Hart to accept a proposed easement for highway purposes on property of Alice Kolega, 129 Conantville Road as depicted on a map prepared by Datum Engineering and Surveying dated July 24, 2008 as revised on November 20, 2008

Motion passed unanimously.

## 9. Town Manager's Proposed FY 2009/10 Budget

Town Manager Matt Hart presented his budget for FY 2009/10 to the Council calling it the most challenging budget in decades. The presentation was an overview of the Manager's proposed budget, which will be discussed in a series of Town Council workshops before the Council presents their budget at the Town Meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Hart thanked the Boards of Education, the Superintendents of Schools, the Department Heads and the Bargaining Units of the Town for their efforts and willingness to work to cut cost and protect the core services of the Town. He also offered his thanks to the Budget Team, Assistant to the Town Manager Maria Capriola, Director of Finance Jeff Smith and especially Controller and Treasurer Cherie Trahan.

# VIII. DÉPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- No comments

# IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- Mr. Schaefer announced that he would prefer to no longer be the Chair of the Finance Committee, but would remain a member. He recommended that Mr. Clouette be appointed Chair. (Statement attached). Deputy Mayor Haddad agreed to Mr. Schaefer's suggested changes and thanked him for his years of service as Chair of the Finance Committee.

# X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

- No reports

# XI. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 10. Chronicle "D19 voters missed boat to make school top grade" – 03/09/09
  11. Chronicle "Development consultant dishes tips for Mansfield" – 03/11/09
  12. Chronicle "Editorial: We offer these threads, needles" – 03/06/09
  13. Chronicle "Health district nets \$75K grant" – 03/14/09
  14. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 03/12/09
  15. J. DeFelice re: Law Day 2009/Nomination for Liberty Bell Award
  16. Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust, Inc. re: Luce property
  17. Mansfield Today "Obama bill includes Storrs Center funds" – 03/11/09
  18. E. Paterson/M. Hart re: Stimulus Funding for Storrs Center

# XII. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, asked for Council's help in recruiting additional volunteers to tape the Council meetings. He also reiterated his request for no increase in his taxes.

# XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

- Town Manager Matt Hart suggested the issue of a Parking Steering Committee be put on a future agenda for discussion.  
Mr. Clouette requested that a financial impact statement be attached to the Special Police Service Ordinance. The Town Manager will do so.

Mr. Paulhus left the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

By consensus the Town Council agreed to go into Executive Session to discuss Strategy or Negotiations with Respect to Collective Bargaining.

# XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- CGS§1-220(2) – Strategy or Negotiations with Respect to Collective Bargaining

Present: Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Nesbitt, Schaefer

Also Present: Town Manager Matt Hart, Assistant to the Town Manager Maria Capriola.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Nesbitt moved and Ms. Duffy seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 P.M.

Gregory Haddad, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk